

SAFETY AND HEROISM



CODY E. THAO
Department of Public Safety,
State Highway Patrol

Cody E. Thao serves as a state trooper for the State Highway Patrol under the Department of Public Safety. His position entails the assurance of safe and efficient transportation in the Wake County area.

On Friday, April 8, 2022, at 12:13 a.m., the State Highway Patrol responded to a call for assistance from the Johnston County Sheriff's Office who were pursuing a vehicle traveling into Wake County. Trooper Thao joined the pursuit and found the suspect attempting to enter the I-40 eastbound ramp while driving against traffic. To ensure the safety of those traveling on the busy highway, Trooper Thao drove his patrol car into the path of the suspect's vehicle, blocking him from entering the highway. Trooper Thao was evaluated by emergency medical personnel and was found to have not sustained any injuries from the collision. The driver was later charged with driving while impaired.

Without Trooper Thao's quick thinking, bravery and dedication to the protection of North Carolina citizens, the suspect would have likely entered the highway driving in the wrong direction. This safety hazard could have led to the injury or death of those traveling down the interstate.

Trooper Thao, who had been in the job less than a year when the incident occurred, is described by his colleagues as a representative of the lifesaving work the members of the State Highway Patrol dedicate themselves to every day. The State of North Carolina joins the State Highway Patrol and the Department of Public Safety in their pride and admiration for Trooper Cody E. Thao's heroic efforts and willingness to put himself in harm's way to protect the public.

